

Application serial no.: 10/501,693
Examiner Dillon
Art Unit: 3651
October 17, 2005
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Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following replacement paragraph:

The invention concerns a process and device for conveying powdered material ~~in accordance with the introductory clause of Claim 1 and Claim 8, respectively.~~ The process and device are used especially in powder coating installations to convey powder coating material by compressed air in dense phase from a reservoir into a delivery line and through this to a spray gun or other type of spray application device.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 10 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

As is shown best in FIGS. 3 and 9, each filter element 50 is surrounded by a housing 52, which is separated from the filter element 50 by a cylindrical annular space 54. In the device shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the housing 52 has a connection 56, which can be alternately acted upon by negative pressure from a negative pressure source 58 ~~[The author has used the same number "(58)" to refer to two different things, i.e., the hose connector 58 in FIG. 3 and the negative pressure source 58 in FIG. 4. Tr. Ed.]~~ (FIG. 4) and by compressed air from a compressed air tank 48 (FIG. 4). At the two opposite ends of the housing 52 and the filter element 50, there is a hose connection 58, onto which the adjoining elastically pliable circumferential wall section 42 can be pushed and fastened by hose clips (not shown). The hose connections 58 are screwed together with the housing 52 by screw caps 60. Gaskets 62, 64 inserted between the hose connections 58 and the filter element 50 and the housing 52 prevent compressed air from escaping from the chamber 10, 12 or from the annular space 54 of the housing 52, when compressed air is admitted to the chamber 10, 12 in this region, and prevent outside air from entering the chamber 10, 12 or the annular space 54, when negative pressure is applied to the chamber 10, 12.

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Please replace the third paragraph beginning on page 10 and continuing onto page 11 with the following replacement paragraph:

As is shown best in FIG. 4, the compressed air/negative pressure connection 56 around ~~[In the preceding paragraph, it was stated that the housing 52 has a connection 56. The connection 56 is not around the housing 52; it is in the housing 52. That is, the word "um" should be "in," and, accordingly, the word "around" should be "in" Tr. Ed.]~~ the housing 52 of each conveying chamber 10, 12 is alternately connected by an electromagnetic 5-way control valve 66 with the negative pressure source 58 and with the compressed air tank 48 to apply negative pressure to the given chamber 10, 12 to draw powder coating material 4 out of the reservoir 6 with the inlet 14 or 16 open and the outlet 18 or 20 closed or to feed compressed air into the chamber 10, 12 to discharge the powder coating material 4 previously drawn into the chamber 10, 12 with the inlet 14 or 16 closed and the outlet 18 or 20 open and convey it through the delivery line 28 by the dense phase or so-called plug flow method.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 13 with the following replacement paragraph:

To be sure, to clean a conveying chamber, for example, chamber 10, it is basically possible, by suitable switching of the multiple-way control valves 44, 46 of the pneumatic cylinders 32, to open both the inlet 14 and the outlet 18 of this chamber 10 (and to close the inlet 16 and the outlet 20 of the other chamber 12), and then to blow out this chamber 10, together with the delivery line 26 ~~[sic; "28" was intended Tr. Ed.]~~ and the feed line 24 from the reservoir 6 or from the spray gun 8.

Please replace the third paragraph beginning on page 14 and continuing onto page 15 with the following replacement paragraph:

As is best shown in FIG. 10, a line 108 branches off for this purpose between the five-way control valve 66 and the housing 52 of each filter element, such that a spring-loaded

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nonreturn valve 114, 116 is inserted in opposite directions of installation into each of the two branch lines 110 and 112 that lead to the connections 104 and 106, so that, when compressed air is fed into the line 108, the nonreturn valve 114 located in front of the connection 104 opens against the force of the spring, while the nonreturn valve 116 located in front of the connection 106 remains closed. On the other hand, when a negative pressure is applied to the line 118 ~~{sic; should be "108" Tr. Ed.}~~, the nonreturn valve 116 opens against the force of the spring, while the nonreturn valve 114 remains closed.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 15 with the following replacement paragraph:

In addition, to further increase the conveyance capacity of the device 2, the hollow-cylindrical filter elements 50 in the device shown in FIGS. 7 to 10 have a greater length and a greater ratio of length to inside diameter, namely, a length of 80 and 250 mm, respectively, with an inside diameter of 6 and 12 mm, respectively, and a corresponding chamber length between the centers of the pinch valves 30 on the inlet and outlet sides of 180 and 400 mm, respectively. ~~{This seems to be very poorly written. We suppose they mean that the device in FIGS. 1 to 6 has the set of smaller values (80, 6, and 180 mm), and the device in FIGS. 7-10 has the set of larger values (250, 12, and 400 mm) Tr. Ed.}~~